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DEPARTMENT OF RED CROSS NURSING

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RED CROSS SUB-COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

THE Red Cross Public Health Nursing Service has often felt the need of advice in regard to its particular problems from the public health nurse members of the Red Cross National Committee on Nursing Service. These members could only speak as individuals, however, and no official weight could be given their opinion and recommendation unless the whole committee were appealed to. Some time ago it was suggested that the National Committee appoint a sub-committee on public health nursing which could be formally consulted on matters concerning the Red Cross Public Health Nursing Service and whose collective opinion could be given official cognizance. Accordingly in July, Miss Noyes appointed such a sub-committee from members of the National Committee from nominations presented by the Director of Public Health Nursing Service. It was our good fortune that all invited to serve accepted.

The sub-committee is made up of the following: Edna L. Foley, Mary S. Gardner, Florence Patterson, Cecilia Evans, and Anne H. Strong. Already this committee has been asked to advise the National Committee concerning the character and amount of postgraduate training or experience in public health nursing which may be accepted as the equivalent of enrollment requirements for those graduate nurses applying for enrollment in the Red Cross Nursing Service who are disqualified because of deficiencies in undergraduate training.

ITALIAN NOBLEWOMEN VISIT AMERICA

A group of three Italian noblewomen, at the invitation of the American Red Cross Nursing Service, visited this country during the past summer for the express purpose of studying nursing education,—particularly as applied to schools of nursing and specific types of work performed by the graduate nurse. This study group was chosen from the local committees established under Red Cross supervision by Mary S. Gardner and Edna L. Foley in various Italian cities. Its personnel included the Marchesa Paola Firmaturi, of Palermo; the Contessa Nora Balzani, of Rome and Signorina Caterina Bosio, of Florence. All three speak English, French, and Italian with equal fluency. Signorina Bosio is herself half American, her mother having been Mabel Dix, a sister of the well known New York clergyman, Rev. Morgan L. Dix. Contessa Balzani is Irish on her mother's side.

The Italian group landed in Boston on August 2nd and during their stay,—as in each of the other American cities visited,—were guests of the local Division and Chapter of the American Red Cross. Their experience in New England is a fair sample of the General nature of their itinerary. Escorted by the Division Directors of Nursing and members of the Boston Chapter, the Italian visitors were conducted through the local schools of nursing to gain a general idea of each step in the plan of education required in this country for the preparation of a graduate nurse. One day was spent with the Instructive District Nursing Association, studying various aspects of public health nursing and the technique and routine of this phase of community welfare work. Among the institutions visited in New England were the Social Service Department of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Forsythe Dental Infirmary, one of the finest institutions of its kind in the country. From Boston the group proceeded to New York City, making a short stop at Newport, R. I. Chicago, Cleveland, Baltimore and Washington were among the other cities included in the itinerary which was designed with special reference to the types of nursing, child welfare work and hospitals conducted in these centers. In New York, for example, Teachers College, the Headquarters of the three National Nursing Organizations, the municipal hospitals, and the various institutions for the care of the tuberculous were visited. Chicago's visit featured such well known institutions as the Presbyterian Hospital, the Illinois Training School, the Cook County, the Mercy, the Lying-in, the Children's Memorial and Evanston Hospitals. They were entertained by the Visiting Nurse Association and by the Infant Welfare Society. The civic health centers were special objects of interest in Cleveland, as were the various institutions of Pittsburgh, while in Baltimore interest centered in the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. In Washington they were the guests of National Headquarters, and among other institutions, visited Walter Reed Hospital, the Naval Hospital and the Dispensary maintained in connection with the United States Public Health Nursing Service, thus gaining an insight into the types of institutions conducted by Governmental departments, with special reference to the methods of nursing employed.

While the members of the Italian Group have had no nurse's education, they were active during the war in support of nursing soldiers and the care of soldiers' families in their own country. They are now interested in perpetuating the special clinics organized by the American Red Cross and are keenly alive to the necessity of creating and directing public opinion in their own land in the interest of schools of nursing. *For in every land the establishment of the modern*

school of nursing is the sine qua non in the successful working out of health problems. Without the influence and support of schools of nursing, and the trained personnel which they graduate, the most carefully evolved plans for ameliorating the ills of mankind must ever be inadequate. Behind every problem of disease, ignorance, and destitution, is the human factor. And the graduate nurse, trained from the earliest days of her novitiate in human values, the relation between physical unfitness and industrial capacity, and above all the need of maintaining every confidence reposed in her, as she performs the intimate duties of her profession, as inviolate as the confessional, is *par excellence* the instrument for perfecting that great branch of human service somewhat vaguely classified as "social betterment."

Something of these sentiments have been repeatedly expressed by the Italian study group as they visited our great hospitals and schools of nursing, and they have taken back to their native land, as a result of this survey, a new understanding of the needs of their own people and a clarifying sense of the importance of preparing a nursing personnel to meet these needs through the early establishment of schools of nursing.

THE FIFTH RED CROSS ROLL CALL

The Fifth Annual Roll Call of the American Red Cross will be held from November 11 to 24.

Every member of the enrolled Red Cross Nursing Service is expected also to be a member of the American Red Cross at large, and in view of this fact our nursing personnel will doubtless be interested to know what use will be made of the dollar memberships pledged in the annual Roll Call.

This year, even more conspicuously than last, the disabled ex-service men and their families will be the beneficiaries of the Red Cross funds. In this department of our work, alone, approximately \$10,000,000 was spent during the twelve months just completed. Out of the 3,402 active chapters of the organization 2,397 are still maintaining an organized service for the disabled men. The Government, through the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, now known as the Veterans' Bureau, has asked the Red Cross to assist, together with the American Legion, in a complete canvass of the country with a view to locating every disabled man in order that he may learn of his rights and privileges and be put in the way of receiving them.

It cannot be too emphatically or too frequently stated that this same plan of assistance is open to every ex-service woman as well as to every ex-service man. The disabled nurse, quite as sacredly as the disabled soldier, is the obligation of the nation. Every disabled nurse

who served with the Army or Navy is entitled to this type of service and it is hoped that all nurses who have been physically disqualified since the war will not fail to bring forward their claims, even at this late date. Promptness in establishing such claims is an ill-important factor in procuring compensation, as the longer the delay in bringing forward proofs of disability incurred in the service, the more difficult becomes the matter of an equitable adjustment.

It has been very difficult to get any figures on the number of disabled nurses, but the Red Cross hopes to be able to canvass its enrollment as a step toward obtaining accurate information and as a means of assisting those nurses who have not established their claims or applied for relief.

OUR FOREIGN PROGRAMME

IN Europe the American Red Cross programme is centering upon child welfare, expressed by such service as will tend to the prevention of disease and the decrease of mortality among children. This will be accomplished by efforts to improve pre-natal care, health supervision over expectant and nursing mothers and young children; early treatment of minor ailments of infants and children; instruction to mothers and girls in infant feeding, child hygiene, and the home care of sick children; assistance to local health authorities in the education of children and the public in the principles of child health and in the education of children, and the general public in the principles of child welfare; distribution of layettes and clothing to infants and young children through local organizations.

For practical purposes the above programme is to be developed by assisting various countries or communities in the establishment of one or more of the following child health activities or in the actual establishment of such activities in selected cases. Moreover, the closest coöperation will be maintained in all cases and countries with the American Relief Administration. One of the most cumulatively valuable contributions to this programme consists in the establishment of schools of nurse training under American Red Cross sponsorship and supervision. Four such schools are already in active operation, at Prague, Czecho Slovakia; at Warsaw and Posen, Poland; and in Constantinople.

The School of Nursing at Prague, after a year's operation with a staff of five especially qualified American Red Cross nurses has, in spite of many discouragements, advanced to a position of permanency and importance in the health educational scheme of that country. The Polish schools of nursing are being directed by American Red Cross nurses, and the ground is being thoroughly prepared for future work

when their graduates shall be ready to carry on the health programme themselves. The School of Nursing at Constantinople, under the guidance and direction of Red Cross nurses, is also developing and has the support and coöperation of local groups. By the establishment of these schools of nursing the elevation of the nursing standards of these European countries seems assured, and a means perpetuated of creating in each such country a sufficient graduate nursing personnel.

Child health stations, visiting nurses, health education and instruction, and health demonstrations will be the media by which this programme will be made effective. A limited amount of food will be distributed when required for therapeutic reasons. Layettes and, in certain cases, a limited supply of clothing for older children will be distributed, preferably through other than Red Cross agencies.

In every instance one of the first essentials to be observed in carrying out this European programme will be the securing of thorough coöperation of local and natural authorities, local and child health organizations. Next in importance will be the plan of so arranging the various activities that so far as practicable the temporary health measures will be taken over by local personnel and supported by agencies arising in the country served so that present results may be anticipated.

Such hospital supplies as are at present on hand in Europe will be distributed, as far as practicable, to children's hospitals.

TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

District of Columbia: THE NURSES' EXAMINING BOARD OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA will hold an examination for the registration of nurses, on Tuesday, November 29. Applications are to be in not later than Monday, November 14. Apply to Margaret Hutchinson, Secretary and Treasurer, 1337 K. Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Georgia: THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF NURSES FOR GEORGIA will hold an examination October 12 and 13, in Atlanta, Macon, Augusta and Savannah, Ga. Jean Harrell, Secretary, 110 Luckie Street, Atlanta.

Indiana: THE INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF NURSES will hold the second semi-annual examination for nurses, November 16-17, 1921. In November the first examination for trained attendants, as provided for in Section 5 of the new Nurse Act of 1921 will be given by the Board, November 18. These examinations will be held in the House of Representatives in the State House, Indianapolis, Ind. Ida J. McCaslin, Secretary, Lebanon.

Mississippi: The tenth annual meeting of the Mississippi State Association of Graduate Nurses will be held in Hattiesburg, October 28 and 29. All members are urged to be present. Let this meeting be the largest and best in the history of the Association.